

JAN 26 2004  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**REQUEST FOR  
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)  
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000 provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

Application Number: 10/085,066

Filing Date: March 1, 2002

First Named Inventor: Pere RELATS

**RECEIVED**

Group Art Unit: 3765

*JAN 30 2004*

Examiner: Larry D. Worrell Jr.

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

Attorney Docket Number: 08758.0001

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

**Note:** 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) instead of a RCE to be eligible for patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See "Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice," Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000). Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114: **Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, application must request non-entry of such amendment.**

a.  Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on [Date].

ii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

b.  Enclosed:

i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement
ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)	iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a.  Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)

b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. Fees

a.  The filing fee is calculated as follows:

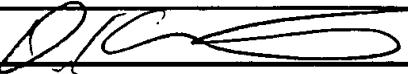
i. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$770.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
ii. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Petition for extension of time for (One Month) \$110.00
iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

b.  Check in the amount of \$880.00 enclosed.

c.  The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

**Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required**

Name: D. Kent Stier	Reg. No.: 50,640
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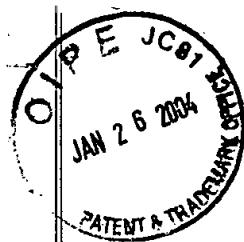
Signature: 	Date: January 26, 2004
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Name: [Text]

Signature:	Date:
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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08758-0001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Pere RELATS et al.

Group Art Unit: 3765

Application No.: 10/085,066

Examiner: L. WORRELL

Filed: March 1, 2002

For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR  
PROVIDING A PROTECTING TUBE  
(as amended)

16/1  
1-30-1  
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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

JAN 30 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

**SUBMISSION UNDER 37 CFR 1.114**

This RCE and Submission are being filed following a Final Office Action dated April 24, 2003, an Advisory Action dated October 21, 2003, the filing of a Notice of Appeal on October 24, 2003, and a request for a one month extension of time filed concurrently with these papers to extend the period for taking appropriate action to January 24, 2004. This Submission replies to the substance of the Final Office Action dated April 24, 2003, in light of the Advisory Action dated October 21, 2003.

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